

{Why was the Qur'an not revealed to him all at once?}



# RESPONSE TO THE CLAIM ABOUT THE REPETITION IN THE QURAN

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We should always remember that the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ in parts, the revelations continued for a period of 23 years. From what we know about what was revealed in Mecca and what was revealed in Madinah, we know that the early Muslims during the first Meccan years had only few short surahs. That was gradually increased year after year; till it reached little more than half the Quran by the end of the 13th year in Mecca.

What I want to say here, that today, we hold the Qur'an in our hand, read from it as a complete book, turn its pages, move from part to part and from Surah to Surat, cross-referencing and reading whatever we wish whenever we wish. But this was not the case for the early Muslims in Mecca. They had only few surahs, yet, they were the ones facing the oppression, persecution and torture inflicted on them by the Mushrekeen of Mecca.



When the Mushrikon questioned why the Quran was not revealed all at once, the following verse told the Prophet ﷺ:

{And those who disbelieve say, "Why was the Qur'an not revealed to him all at once?" Thus (it is sent down in parts) that We may thereby strengthen your heart, and We have recited it [to you] gradually, in stages} 25:32 (Surat Al Furqan)

Verse 32 told us the Qur'an was revealed in parts over many years to strengthen and support the hearts of the Prophet ﷺ and those who embraced the new religion with him. Because if it was revealed all at once, at the early Meccan era, when Muslims were very few, (their number was just above 50 by the end of the 6th year after the beginning of the revelation. So the first couple of years they were much less). Those early Muslims would have been burdened with it if it was revealed all at one time, would not have been able to preserve it, write it, or even memorise it. It would have been near impossible to comprehend its message or to follow all its guidance. Obligations, duties and laws, halal and haram, Zakat, Prayers and Fasting, all these were introduced gradually, in

progressive stages. We have an example in the hadeeth about when the Prophet ﷺ sent Mu'az to Yemen:

Ibn Abbas reported: When the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ sent Mu'adh to Yemen, he said to him:

إِنَّكَ تَأْتِي فَوْمًا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ فَادْعُهُمْ إِلَى شَهَادَةٍ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوكُمْ خَمْسَ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوكُمْ لِذَلِكَ فَأَعْلَمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ خَمْسَ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوكُمْ لِذَلِكَ فَأَعْلَمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَدَقَةً ثُوْخَدْ مِنْ أَغْنِيَائِهِمْ فَتَرَدْ فِي فُقَرَائِهِمْ فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوكُمْ لِذَلِكَ فَأَيَّاكَ وَكَرَائِمَ أَمْوَالِهِمْ وَاتَّقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمَظْلُومِ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ

“Verily, you are coming to a people among the people of the Book, so call them to testify there is no God but Allah and I am the Messenger of Allah. If they accept that, then teach them that Allah has obligated five prayers in each day and night. If they accept that, then teach them that Allah has obligated charity to be taken from their rich and given to their poor. If they accept that, beware not to take from the best of their wealth. Be on guard from the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.” Source: Sahih Muslim 19.

In this tradition, the Prophet ﷺ instructed Mu'adh to introduce Islam to the people in gradual steps, starting with the most important beliefs, the testimony of faith and monotheism (tawheed), and moving onto the next pillars of prayer and charity.

Al Qur'an is a book of guidance, legislation, preaching, debating and support. The guidance that comes at the time of the event, is much more useful and effective, than a set of general directives that comes in one time, not related or responding to any event or a challenge.

If it was revealed, all at one time, so every time they faced a challenge, they would have to go back and read it, looking to find which directives fit their imminent danger, it wouldn't have worked. It also would not have had the effect on Muslims like the one which is revealed as and when needed, guiding and supporting them through the challenges they were facing at that time.

Verses that deals with encountered threats, as and when they occur, is what the early Muslims needed. Revelations dealing with the events from month to month and from year



to year, guiding them, assuring them, debating and responding to the polytheists in what they opposed and what they denied, is what was required, and what was given.

Now we have established the effects and the importance of the revelation in parts that lasted 23 years, which by itself explains the subject of repetition of some stories, mainly the story of Musa  and Pharaoh. Which the sceptics keep bringing out.

The early Muslims did not see it as repetition, because they did not carry with them a book to refer to. On the contrary, they found in its surah's what supported them and strengthened their hearts, what gave them assurance, hope and guidance for dealing with the new situations they are facing from time to time. They did not mind if this revelation, has similarities with one previously revealed, they needed this fresh message to tell them that heavens are aware of where they are and of what they are facing. That was



what they needed, and that was what they got, and what kept them going, till they achieved success when all the odds were against them.

Islam began with few, very few, and their number increased slowly, year after year, if one joined Islam during its seventh year, he would have missed many years of revelation, he may or may not find those who recite to him what he missed.

Among early Muslims, there were the poor, the defenceless and the slaves, these were subjected to torture in order to force them to abandon their beliefs. Quran was telling them how Allah granted victory to believers who were subjected to much more tyranny and oppression. The story of Musa ﷺ and the Israelites in face of the imperial powers of Pharaoh and his army gave them hope and conviction that they will also be victorious in the end. Hope is what



they needed at the time of despair and the revelations gave them just that. So, a particular story or directive was repeated, but in a varied perspective or narrative point of view which suited the varied challenges.

The new religion came with new teachings, concepts. Changing their social and cultural traditions, beliefs, ideas, attitudes, values, rituals, and practices at the levels of individuals and of societies. In other words, considering how the Arabs of Mecca and its surroundings were in the 7th century before the dawn of Islam, the Introduction of the new religion must have been a massive educational project. In these circumstances, repetition is not only necessary, repetition is good.



We know today that repetition is a very important part of learning. Dr Robert F. Burner [University of Virginia | UVa · Darden Graduate School of Business], wrote: “Repeating the encounter fuses it into one's awareness. One of the biggest mistakes a teacher can make is to forego the return or repetition. The learning process is one of slow engagement with ideas; gradually the engagement builds to a critical mass when the student actually acquires the idea. Repetition matters because it can hasten and deepen the engagement process. If one cares about quality of learning, one should consciously design repetitive engagement into courses and daily teaching.” End of quote.

Also, same in marketing and advertisement. It is said “Repetition is fundamental to the success of any advertising program. The marketplace proves out this fact, as does scientific research”.



Ibn Qutaybya (the imam of the literary jurist who lived in the third century AH) said in the book *Ta'weel Mushkel Al Qur'an*: "The Arabs delegations were coming to the Messenger of God ﷺ to join Islam, Muslims recited to them parts from the Qur'an, which was enough for them, and he used to send different surahs to scattered tribes, if the news and the stories were not resaid and repeated, the story of Musa ﷺ would have been sent to a tribe, the story of Jesus to a [another] tribe, the story of Noah to a tribe, and a story of a lot to a tribe".

However, having said that, the repetition of some stories in the Quran are not really a repetition, it is the retelling of the same event as seen from a different angle and different perspective. Told in one surah in few words, in another at length in full details. You will find a story is told narrating only some parts in one surah, then later narrating other parts in different surah. The told parts at any time are usually the most relevant to the challenge Muslims are facing at that time.

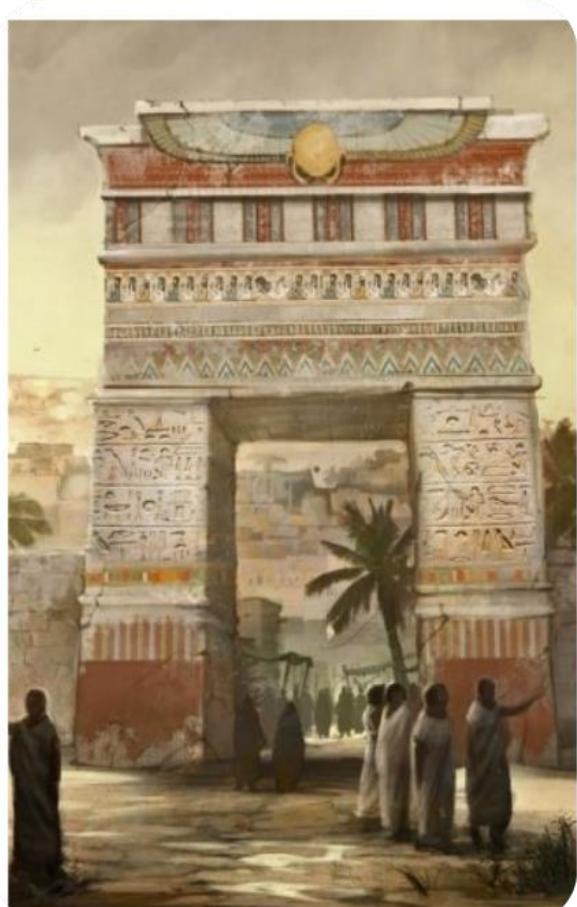
## Response to the Claim about the Repetition in the Quran

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We will be able to see all these elements, by analyzing the most repeated story in the Quran, the story of the Prophet Musa ﷺ facing Pharaoh and his powerful army, the story of delivering the Israelites out of Egypt, where they were oppressed and enslaved for centuries.

We will look in detail at this story, how and where it is mentioned. because as we said, it is the most repeated in the Quran. Different parts of this story were mentioned in some thirty surahs. Such is varied between a brief few verses in one surah, and detailed in dozens of verses in another, reaching ninety verses in Surat Taha.

In order to be able to compare, I prepared the table which I will present in the following pages, so I will start here to explain its components:





	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	Number of first verse	Number of Last Verse	Number of Verses	Number of words
1	Al-A'raf	7	39	103	171	68
2	Ta-Ha	20	45	9	99	90
3	Al-Shu'ara	26	47	11	68	57
4	Al-Naml	27	48	7	14	7
5	Al-Qassas	28	49	3	42	39
6	Al-Isra'	17	50	101	103	3
7	Yunus	10	51	75	92	17
8	Ghafir	40	60	23	45	22
9	Al Zukhruf	43	63	46	56	10
10	Al-Naazi'aat	79	81	15	25	10

If we look at the surahs in which this story is mentioned, from the birth of Musa ﷺ all the way till dividing the Israelite into twelve tribes, we will find that the surahs in which more than 10 verses are mentioned, are as follows:

**Surat Al A3raf**      68 Verses  
**Surat Al-Shu'ara**      57 Verses  
**Surat Yunes**      17 Verses

**Surat Taha**      90 Verses  
**Surat Al Qassas**      39 Verses  
**Surat Ghafir**      22 Verses

In the vertical column on the left, (the horizontal axies), you will find the names of the surah in which several parts of the story of Musa ﷺ are mentioned in some detail. The last column to the right, shows the approximate number of words counted by Microsoft word program which includes in the count the numbers of verses.

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	Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	7	Al-A'raf	39	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.	Pharoah remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

In the upper horizontal row (containing the vertical columns), you find the events of the story of Musa ﷺ divided into 18 stages listed in chronological order from birth all the way till dividing the Israelites into 12 tribes; the covenant and raising of the mountain as said in surat Al A'raf: { And when We raised the mountain above them as if it was a dark cloud and they were certain that it would fall upon them... (171)} Al A'raf [7]. The writing in the horizontal row is shown enlarged in the following two pages: I show here the 18 stages of the story of the Prophet Musa ﷺ and Pharaoh. The titles are briefed and only indicative to fit the available space.

1 Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons

2 Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.

3 Musa in the city killing a man

4 Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages

5 Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.

6 Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.

7 Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.

8 Confrontation with the Magicians

9 Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.

**10**

Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.

**11**

God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.

**12**

Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt

**13**

The parting of the sea and Pharoah and his army drowned.

**14**

Pharoah remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.

**15**

Years in the wilderness

**16**

Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets

**17**

As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.

**18**

The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

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In the colored rectangles inside the table, I put the number of the verses in which this part of the story is mentioned. For example, if we look at the marked rectangular row 1 horizontal and column 6 vertical, that tells us that the event “Musa  and Haroon  went to Pharoah asking him to let  the children of Israel leave” is mentioned [briefly] in Surat Al A’raf in verses 103 to 105 and the number of words count is around /46 (which gives us the idea if such part was brief or detailed).

Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Al-A'raf	39	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.
20	Ta-Ha	45	37-41 /76	9 - 36 / 42 - 57 / 166	103-105 / 46	103-105 / 46		

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I also listed the 18 parts in a vertical table which will help to visualize which parts were mentioned in each Surah.



- 1) Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons
- 2) Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.
- 3) Musa in the city killing a man
- 4) Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 years
- 5) Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.
- 6) Musa & Haroon went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.
- 7) Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.
- 8) Confrontation with the Magicians
- 9) Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharaoh tell people to let him kill Musa.
- 10) Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.
- 11) God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.
- 12) Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt
- 13) The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.
- 14) Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.
- 15) Years in the wilderness
- 16) Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets
- 17) Al-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.
- 18) The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Al-A'raf	39						103-105 / 46		106 -126 / 188		127 -132 / 109	133 -135 / 50		136 -137 / 41		138 -142 / 89	143 -147 / 130	148 -154 / 141	155 -171 / 429

**Surat al-A'raf**, Revealed in Mecca and its order of revelation is [39], in which the story of all the Prophets who preceded Musa ﷺ were listed in brief, starting with the creation of mankind; the story of Adam and his descend from paradise. Then Noah, then Hod to his people A'ad, then Salih to Thamud, then Lot to his people, then Shu'eyb to Madyan; then we come to the story of the Prophet Musa. All the people and towns we mentioned denied and rejected their prophets and all were destroyed for their rejection. The story of Musa ﷺ started from his confrontation with Pharoah. This was the first revelation to tell the early Moslems about Musa ﷺ. A very brief was mentioned before in surat Al Muzammel in only 2 verses, that was just like a title.

But here in Surat Al A'raf we get more details but starting from the confrontation with Pharoah, then Confrontation with the Magicians. Musa ﷺ in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops, then God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood. The parting of the sea and Pharoah and his army drowned. Years in the wilderness, Musa ﷺ goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets. As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments. Till dividing the Israelites into 12 tribes, the covenant and the raising of the mountain.

So, the story here, began with his confrontation with Pharoah, and it did not mention any of the events that preceded the confrontation.

## Surat Al A'raf

- 1) Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons
- 2) Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.
- 3) Musa in the city killing a man
- 4) Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 years
- 5) Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.
- 6) Musa & Haroon went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.
- 7) Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.
- 8) Confrontation with the Magicians
- 9) Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharaoh tell people to let him kill Musa.
- 10) Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.
- 11) God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.
- 12) Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt
- 13) The parting of the sea and Pharoah and his army drowned.
- 14) Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.
- 15) Years in the wilderness
- 16) Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets
- 17) Al-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.
- 18) The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.	Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

2

20	Ta-Ha	45	37-41 /76	9 - 36 / 196	42 - 57 / 166	58 - 76 /242					77 - 79 /33		80 - 82 /44		83 - 99 /239	
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As for **Surat Taha**, the story began when Musa ﷺ saw fire on the mountain and went there to bring a flame from it, to find himself in the Holy Valley, where God spoke with him and told him to go to Pharaoh. Then the story returns to an earlier time to briefly describe the birth of Musa, when his mother puts him in a basket in the river, to be picked up by the pharaoh's family, and raised in the palace. then briefly said that Musa killed a man and fled from Egypt and to Madyan where he spent



years there. Then the story goes to Wadi Towa, then to Musa ﷺ and Haroon going to Pharaoh and the challenge with the sorcerers, who were defeated and believed in The God of Musa ﷺ and Haroon ﷺ. Then in brief the exodus, the parting of the sea and the sea closing on pharaoh and his army. Then the story of Al Samiri.

## Surat Taha

- 1) Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons
- 2) Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.
- 3) Musa in the city killing a man
- 4) Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 years
- 5) Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.
- 6) Musa & Haroon went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.
- 7) Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.
- 8) Confrontation with the Magicians
- 9) Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharaoh tell people to let him kill Musa.
- 10) Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.
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- 12) Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt
- 13) The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.
- 14) Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.
- 15) Years in the wilderness
- 16) Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets
- 17) Al-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.
- 18) The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
26	Al-Shu'ara	47	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.	Pharoah remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

As for **Surat Al Shu'ara**, it tells us about Musa & Haroon ﷺ going to Pharaoh asking him to let the Israelites leave with them, Pharaoh telling Musa ﷺ that he was raised among them in the palace. Then Pharaohs gathered all sorcerers for a confrontation day with Musa, in which the sorcerers admit defeat and declared their belief in the God of Musa. Then in brief, the exodus to the east, the parting of the sea, saving of the Israelites and drowning of Pharaoh and his army.



	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharoah and his army drowned.	Pharoah remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.
5	Al-Qassas	49	"3 - 6 / 56	" 7 - 13 / 120	"14 - 21 / 156	"22 - 28 / 141	"29 - 35 / 138	"29 - 35 / 138			37 - 39 /43				40 - 41 /20					

In **Surat al-Qassas**, [49] here we find the detail of the story since Musa ﷺ was an infant and how God inspired the mother of Musa to throw him in the river to be picked up by the Pharaohs and take him as a boy, and then when he grew up in pharaoh's palace he killed a man and fled the city scared, he went to Madyan where he helped the two women, married one of them and stayed in Madyan

ten years. He left and while travelling with his family, he saw the flame, where God spoke to him. Thereafter in brief, the meeting with Pharaoh who arrogantly rejected Musa request and subsequently ended with his army in the sea. So, Musa's story here focused on detailing the first period from his birth until his meeting with Pharaoh. (Surat al-Qassas verses (76-82) tell the story of Qarun, who was from the Israelites, and no mention of Musa or his story in these verses).

<b>Surat Al Qassas</b>	
1)	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons
2)	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.
3)	Musa in the city killing a man
4)	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 years
5)	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.
6)	Musa & Haroon went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.
7)	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.
8)	Confrontation with the Magicians
9)	Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharaoh tell people to let him kill Musa.
10)	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.
11)	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.
12)	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt
13)	The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.
14)	Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.
15)	Years in the wilderness
16)	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets
17)	Al-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.
18)	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		# of Surah according to order of revelation																		
7	Yunus	51	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharaoh Haman & Qaroon, Pharaoh tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharaoh and his army drowned.	Pharaoh remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.

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**Surat Younis [51]** verses (75-92) and here we pass briefly starting with the sending of Musa ﷺ and Harun to Pharaoh and pharaoh's rejection and the defeat of the sorcerers, and then Musa ﷺ staying in Egypt for a time, after which Pharaoh repented and believed in the God of Musa when he faced death while drowning.

Surah	Number of Surah in the Quran	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	# of Surah according to order of revelation																		
Surah Ghafir	40	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	Musa in the city killing a man	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages	Musa in the holy valley, God speak to him and send him to Pharaoh.	Musa & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.	Confrontation with the Magicians	Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.	Exodus Musa and the children of Israel leave Egypt	The parting of the sea and Pharoah and his army drowned.	Pharoah remorse and believe in the God of the children of Israel.	Years in the wilderness	Musa goes to meet God and to receive the Tablets	As-Samiri and the worship of a calf made out of their ornaments.	The 12 tribes. The covenant and the raising of the mountain.
	60																		
		23 - 24 / 14								25 - 45 / 384									

**Surat Gaffer [60] (23-54)** The story begins with Musa ﷺ going to Pharaoh, and here is a mention of Haman and Qaroon, and new details, such as pharaoh's saying: {And Pharaoh said, "O Haman, construct for me a tower that I might reach the means (36)} and the dialogue between a believer with pharaoh's people.

The following is the table showing all the Surahs and which parts are mentioned in each:



# Response to the Claim about the Repetition in the Quran

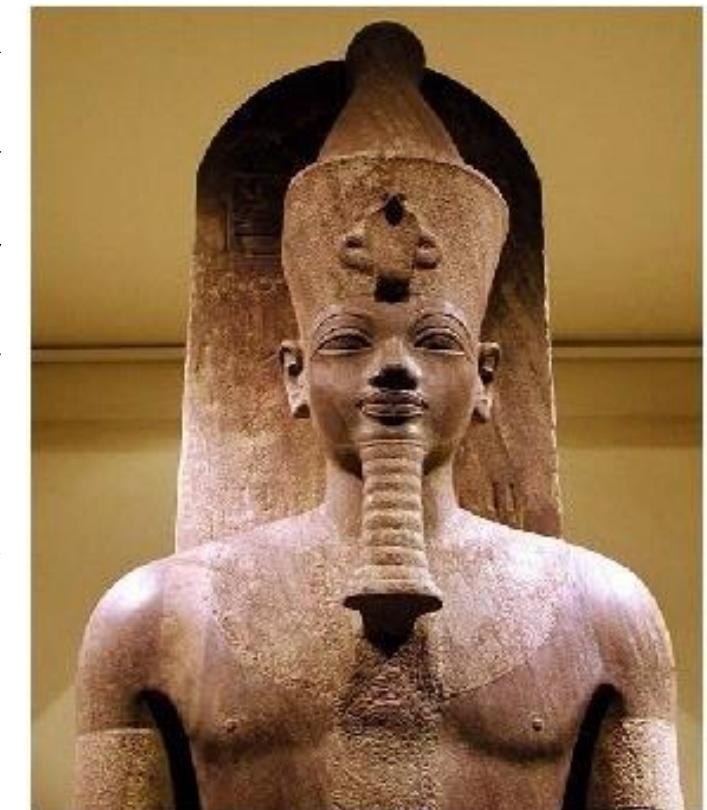
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From studying the table and reviewing its data, we find that all of the Surahs mentioned, each contained parts of the story, some contained many parts, others contained less. Some of these parts were detailed in one surah, but briefed in the others. **We also find that not one of all these surahs, contains the whole story.** That clearly shows that the story is not repeated in these verses, but they, the surah, complete each other, and each part mentioned in more than one surah is more detailed in some, and briefed in

		Number of Surah in the Quran	Surah	# of Surah according to order of revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	7	Al-A'raf	39	Pharaoh dominating and suppressing a group by killing their sons				103-105 / 46		106-126 / 188			127-132 / 109	133-135 / 50		136-137 / 41		138-142 / 89	143-147 / 130	148-154 / 141	155-171 / 429	
2	20	Ta-Ha	45	Musa in a basket in the river. Aal Pharaoh raised him up in the Palace.	37-41 / 76			9 - 36 / 196	42 - 57 / 166		58 - 76 / 242						77 - 79 / 33		80 - 82 / 44	83 - 99 / 239		
3	26	Al-Shu'ara	47	Musa in the city killing a man				10 - 17 / 58		18 - 29 / 101	30 - 51 / 179						52 - 62 / 61	63 - 68 / 43				
4	27	Al-Naml	48	Musa fled the city to Madyan, got married and stayed for 10 pilgrimages				7 - 14 / 93	13 - 14 / 21								40 - 42 / 33					
5	28	Al-Qassas	49	Pharaoh & Haron went to Pharaoh asking to Let children of Israel leave.	"3 - 6 / 56	" 7 - 13 / 120	"14 - 21 / 156	"22 - 28 / 141	"29 - 35 / 138			37 - 39 / 43					40 - 41 / 20					
6	17	Al-Isra'	50	Confrontation with the Magicians				101-102 / 36									103 / 9					
7	10	Yunus	51	Pharaoh remind Musa that he was raised in the palace among them.				75 - 78 / 55		79 - 82 / 44		83 - 89 / 115					90 - 92 / 51					
8	40	Ghafir	60	Pharoah Haman & Qaroon, Pharoah tell people to let him kill Musa.				23 - 24 / 14		25 - 45 / 384												
9	43	Al Zukhruf	63	Musa in Egypt, God caused years of drought and scarcity of crops.				46 - 47 / 21				54 - 48 / 85		55 - 56 / 12								
10	79	Al-Naazi'aat	81	God send the flood, the locusts, the vermin, the frogs & the blood.				15 - 19 / 29	20 - 25 / 24													

the others, but each introduced new details or gave different perspective or view to the same event.

It is clear from our study on the story of Musa ﷺ, the most narrated in the Qur'an, that the claim of repetition in this story and in the Qur'an in general, is a claim raised only by those who have not studied nor compared these verses and events, when in fact they are snapshots detailing and complementing each other, covering the event from different angles and different standpoints. And all the surahs that we displayed, were revealed to the Prophet and the Muslims during the Meccan era, when they were weak and poor were suffering under the domination and oppression inflicted on them by the unbelievers. These verses and surahs, told how Allah granted victory to the oppressed, the enslaved children of Israel over the most powerful Pharaoh and his imperial army.



- I point here that the story of the people of Musa in Egypt and their exit from it was also mentioned in Sura al-Baqarah which was revealed in the early Madinah era, (in verses 40 to 98). This part was addressed to the children of Israel, which began in verse 40, " O Children of Israel! Remember My favour wherewith I favoured you, and fulfil your (part of the) covenant, I shall fulfil My (part of the) covenant and fear Me (40)}Surah 2.
- I did not include this in the table because it did not tell any of the events from birth to Exodus. The part of it that dealt with the Exodus to worshipping the calf was briefly mentioned in 6 verses only, (from verse 49 to 54).



As the story of the Prophet Musa ﷺ in Egypt was divided in parts and told in several surahs as we have already shown. There are also in the Quran many other stories that were revealed complete in one time in one surah. These stories were not fragmented nor repeated in any other surah, They are the story of Prophet Musa ﷺ with the good servant (Surat Al Kahf), the story of Yousof ﷺ, the story of the People of the Cave, the story of the Zu Al Qarnin, the story of the Sacrifice, and the story of Musa ﷺ when he asked the Israelites to slaughter a cow, which mentioned in verses 67 to 73 of surat Al Baqarah. All these stories were revealed in full in one surah and were not repeated in full nor in parts.

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We note that all these stories do not include the element of the oppressed, the weak facing and defeating the powerful and the formidable as the story of Musa ﷺ facing Pharaoh and his army. This particular story gave the Muslims in Mecca the hope that one day, they also will be victorious. That is why we find it told many times during the Meccan era.

We go back to our subject, which is the revelation of the Qur'an in parts and accordingly repetition was necessary. The most important objective was to keep reminding the early Muslims and to support their hearts as they were facing the polytheists, who rejected the new religion and denied the day of judgement and the afterlife, they came with their doubts, which the Quran answered, but as they repeated the same year after year, similar answer was also repeated.

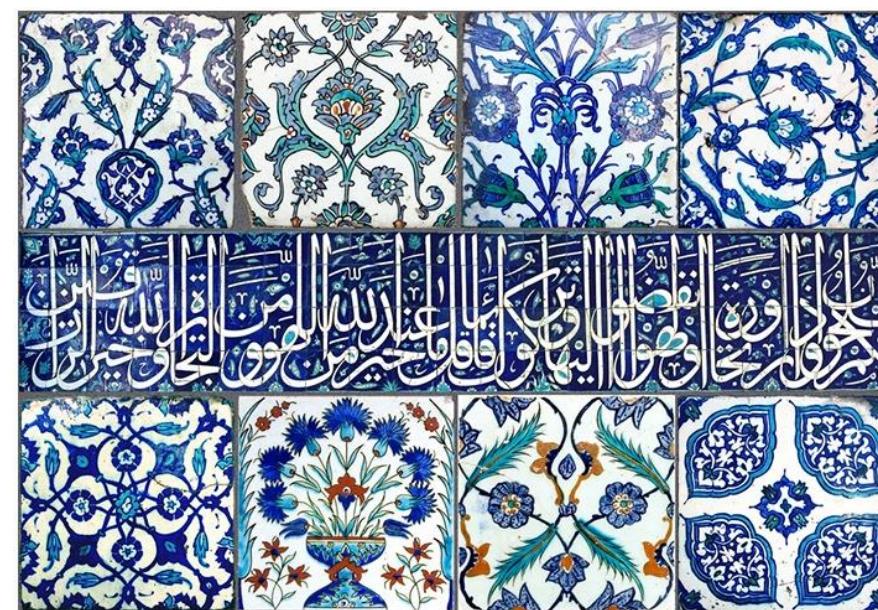
Now. If the repetition was of a human origin, a story if repeated many times. Details of which would have differed and mistakes will appear, especially when told during periods extending over several years. The time, Quran, which was revealed over a period of 23 years, we find the same event, narrated from different perspectives and different angles, you find no difference or mistakes in retelling any of these events, all you find is either addition to the story, a brief of what had already been told in details, or detailing of what had been told in brief before. Quran tells us just that:



{Do they not then consider the Quran carefully? If it had been from other than Allah they would have found therein many discrepancies (82)} Surat Al Nisa'a

The proof is in the result, and there is no doubt that the revelation of the Qur'an in parts, and retelling the same stories and principles as and when needed, is what supported the Prophet ﷺ and those who followed him, and lead to the success of the new religion, against all the enormous odds that stood against them.

We come here to the end of this research.



والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

أشكركم على حسن إستماعكم

وسيم محمد رفيق

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{أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْءَانَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ أَخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا } ٨٢

